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Seven killed in US Sikh temple shooting

OAK CREEK, Wisconsin (AFP) - A gunman opened fire at a Sikh temple in the northern United States on Sunday, triggering a shootout which left him and at least six others dead, local police said. "An officer arrived on the scene, engaged the shooter and was shot multiple times," Greenfield police Chief Brad Wentlandt told reporters in Oak Creek, outside Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "That shooter was put down."

"At this time, we have not identified any additional gunmen," he added, contradicting reports of multiple shooters but stressing the situation was "extremely fluid" and that officers were still securing the scene.

Three adult men in critical condition were being treated at Froedtert Hospital, a spokeswoman told AFP.

"We've heard the scene is

still unfolding, so we're prepared for more" victims, the hospital's chief medical officer Lee Biblo told CNN.

The president of the temple, Satwant Kaleka, was shot and was taken to a hospital, according to The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. It said there were believed to be as many as 20 to 30 victims.

According to religious tradition, Sikh Indians wear turbans to cover their uncut hair and sport long beards.

In the United States they have often been mistaken for Muslims and have been targeted by anti-Islam activists, particularly after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Sunday's shooting also bore some similarities to a March 2005 incident in Brookfield that saw a gunman kill seven worshippers and himself during a church service at a hotel.

Famous tv presenter of Sabado Sensacional visits La Trattoria el Faro Blanco Restaurant



Villalobos with La Trattoria's staff

Recently, La Trattoria el Faro Blanco Restaurant had the honor to receive famous tv presenter Leonardo Villalobos.

Leonardo works at Venezuelan tv station Venevision and is best known as host of the famous program Sabado Sensacional.

Villalobos was on the island on his honeymoon and could not resist making his usual stop at La Trattoria el Faro Blanco, situated close to Aruba's California Light-house.

In 2005, Leonardo started working at Venevision presenting the morning program Portadas and in 2010 he went on to host the famous program Sabado Sensacional. He also presents Kino Tachira and during the day he has a radio program.

Villalobos started his career as an actor in the theater and Telenovelas. On August 30th Villalobos will be presenting Miss Venezuela for the 2nd time.

Recently Villalobos got married to Venezuelan model and journalist Yomily Corredor, their wedding was transmitted via Venevision.

Leonardo and Yomily once again enjoyed the dinner at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco Restaurant, known for their famous Italian dishes and praised the excellent service the restaurant provides.

Their repeated phrase that night was: "es que la Trattoria es una Joya...tienen de todo!" (translation: La Trattoria is a jewel, they have everything here!)



Leonardo Villalobos with wife and La Trattoria's executive Arthur Kelly

La Trattoria wishes Leonardo and Yomily an eternal honeymoon.

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The FMAA has a working alliance with ParnassiaBacoGroep of Holland



Fundaciom pa Manehlo di Adiccion (FMAA) is a local foundation in charge of the different programs dealing with the situation of addiction on Aruba. These organizations are also subsidized by the government. Among these are: Centro Colorado, Centro Dakota, Consultorio pa Asuntonan di Adiccion, Halway House in Meiveld, etc.

FMAA officially began in 2010 after the government

had reorganized all organizations offering support for addiction as well as prevention methods to elevate the quality of the care and service being offered.

ParnassiaBavoGroep is a very large and professional organization with almost 7000 employees in the realm of the care and prevention of addiction. They also have 8 different instances providing all kinds of support and professional treatment all over the Netherlands.

It is expected that very soon our local professionals will also acquire ample experience in the realm of addiction after many years of diligent work by the government to hold a congress here. Soon the government will announce an International Congress to be held here together with the ParnassiaBavoGroep and Aruba's FMAA.

Our local professionals will be able to learn from and intermingle with international experts and learn a host of new methods and applications for their work here.

San Nicolaas well on its way to renewal of streets and buildings



The work of the renovation and improvement around the island is moving along well. Progress is visible in almost every corner. There are currently various projects in the San Nicolaas area that are in far advance phases. Two such projects are almost completed, namely, the old ambulance post and the Otaheitstraat.

Regarding the old ambulance post in San Nicolaas, this project began in November 2011 and represents an investment of 500 thousand Florins. The refurbished building will serve as a meeting place for inhabitants of the district to meet with Ministers, and at the same time will be a conference room for the Counsel of Ministers to meet to discuss matters pertaining to San Nicolaas.

According to the architect, after an evaluation of the building, a section had to be demolished as it was in bad shape. With respect to the design, they began designing

the complex five months ago with a view on the future use of the building. In view of its future use, they opted to expand the construction area of 130m2 up to 175m2.

The building situated on the corner of Pastoor Hendrikstraat and Weg Seroe Preto is about 90% completed. The inside section needs some work yet in order to meet all the requirements. They have taken into consideration facilities for handicapped persons for the access and use of the complex.

The building has seven rooms including a lounge area where people can wait, and restrooms, offices for personnel, a meeting room for the Counsel of Ministers, and individual meeting rooms. The external area of the building has also been given adequate attention with new asphalt covering, tiled sidewalks and trees and other facilities.

The other project, the Otaheitstraat renovation, is near-

ing completion. DOW made sure that this street received the needed reconstruction as it was in dire shape. According to Jossy Kock of DOW, they are putting in the finishing touches and are completing the tiling of the side walks to complete the project.

Other projects being worked on in the San Nicolaas area are, the restoration and amplification of the Joe Laveist Sports Park, the park in front of the Post Office, and the improvement of Lago Heights, Diamantbergweg and the entire area around the Village including a museum for Carnival.

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Aruba say's "Masha Danki"



Recently a group of loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Distinguished Visitors.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between ten and twenty consecutive years.

All of the honorees are members of Marriott Surf Club and have been enjoying the island every year.

The honorees were Mr. Alan Finkel and Mrs. Michelle Finkel resident of New Jersey, and Mrs. Brigitt Scapicchio and Mrs. Veronica Valente resident of Massachusetts Salem.

The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority with Mrs. Luzdary Leest representing Marriott Surf Club.

The main reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, white sand beaches and the local food.

Ernesto races towards Mexico, Central America

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - Tropical Storm Ernesto was spinning westward in the Caribbean Sea on Sunday, barreling toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, US forecasters said.

At 1500 GMT, the eye of the storm was located about 210 miles (340 kilometers) south of Kingston, with Ernesto expected to dump up to six inches (15 centimeters) on Jamaica as it moves south of the island later in the day, according to the Miami-based National Hurricane Center.

The storm had top winds of 50 miles per hour, and was moving westward at 23 miles per hour.

Squalls were ripping through the southern coast of Hispaniola, the island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti. "Showers and thunderstorms, occasionally heavy, are possible over the Dominican Republic and Haiti today," the NHC said.

Ernesto was expected to

move north of the northeastern coast of Honduras late Monday before making landfall in the Yucatan.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Jamaica, while Grand Cayman island and parts of the Honduran coast were under a tropical storm watch, meaning tropical storm conditions are possible in the coastal area within the next 48 hours.

The current forecast model has Ernesto brushing the northern coast of Honduras and parts of Nicaragua, then making landfall in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, home to the busy beach resort city of Cancun, on Wednesday.

Further east, Tropical Storm Florence had top winds of 60 miles per hour as it headed westward at 14 miles per hour. The sixth named storm of the Atlantic season was located 770 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands and was not expected to strengthen further.



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La Cabana associates enjoy a day of dominos



La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club recently treated its associates and their family members to a fun day of playing dominos. In true Aruban style, the sound of domino stones being slammed down on the playing tables could be heard echoing throughout the Noord Community Center, where the associates were divided up into teams and battled head to head for the title of ultimate domino champions. Aside from their admirable domino skills, the teams also deserve kudos for coming up with their creative

team names. Teams such as The Recreation Busters, The Lion Fish and No Mercy had their own fans rooting them on as they kept careful score of their wins and losses.

Present to supervise the fierce yet friendly competition was General Manager Joe Najjar, along with members of La Cabana's management team.

Photos show La Cabana Beach & Raquet Club's associates and their family members enjoying an evening of competition, camaraderie and

Clown Doctors receives gracious donation via SETAR

A gracious donation of \$1000 was donated this year to Aruba's Clown Doctors from the association of the 'Community Charities Program.' This is a program of the Caribbean Cable and Telecommunications Association (CCTA) of which SETAR is member.

Every year CCTA organizes a special raffle during their annual conference to which members contribute for a worthy cause. After the funds have been collected the association then asks their members to nominate a recipient that works for the benefit of the community in each member country.

It has been SETAR's custom each year to nominate an organization working in our community to receive the donation. This year they nominated Aruba Clown Doctors to receive this year's donation from CCTA.

Aruba Clown Doctors is an organization of volunteers who visit the children's ward at the Hospital twice per week. They bring cheers and laughs to sick children in the hospital. They also bring cheers to two foundations working with handicapped and physically disabled children. They also visit Maristella (home for the elderly) where they visit our elderly who deeply appreciate their attention. Every Friday afternoon they visit Casa Cuna where children have no homes to go to on the weekends. Aruba Clown Doctors practices mental health and has undergone special training to do what they do.

The CCTA Community Charities Program has been established since 1993 and has already donated over



\$267,000 in the Caribbean since its founding. Fourteen companies have been nominated for a \$1000 donation. The countries named are: Bermuda Cable Vision; BVI Cable TV; Caribbean Broadcasting, Corporation of Barbados, Choice Cable TV of Puerto Rico, innovative Cable TV of St. Croix, Innovative distribution Cable TV St. Thomas-St. John, Liberty Cablevision of Puerto Rico, St. Lucia Cablevision

(LIED), St. Maarten Cable TV, Aruba SETAR, The Cable of St. Kits, TV Distribution Systems of Curacao, West Star TV Limited of the Cayman Islands, and Wireless Telecommunications Network of St. Maarten.

Accompanying photo shows Aruba Clown Doctor's Esmeralda receiving the CCTA check from Ursula Geerman with Andreina Kock and Suzy Maduro of SETAR looking on.

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Clinton encourages girls, women in Malawi visit

LILONGWE (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met schoolgirls and Africa's second woman president during an unprecedented visit to Malawi Sunday before jetting to South Africa to visit Nelson Mandela.

On the fifth leg of a tour that has already taken her to troubled South Sudan and focused on the continent's security woes, Clinton chose to emphasise women's rights and education.

The first US chief diplomat to visit the southern African nation stopped at the Lilongwe Girls Secondary School in the capital after meeting with President Joyce Banda.

The diplomat was visibly moved when a girl wrapped a colourful gift around her -- an orange, blue and grey traditional African fabric locally known as chitenge.

Dozens of other girls welcomed Clinton with singing.

She then took time to shake hands with every woman at the school, where US volunteer group Peace Corps is holding a week-long camp for girls from across the country.



Malawian President Joyce Banda (L) shakes hands with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the official residence State House, in Lilongwe, Malawi. Clinton became the first US chief diplomat to visit Malawi.

Clinton shared her mother's story as encouragement to the girls in a country where women's rights have been an upward battle, an issue which lay close to her heart.

"She overcame a sea of difficulties early in her life. She was abandoned by her parents and grandparents, abused and neglected," Clinton told her eager audience.

"You have the right to make your own choices about your future. So aim high, stand tall and be proud to be a woman in this time and in

this country with so much promise," she said.

She looked forward to see young women leaders alongside young men on her next trip to Malawi, she said.

Clinton earlier on Sunday met with Banda, Africa's second woman leader after Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at her official residence State House where the two exchanged warm words.

"For a long time, we have been women and children activists. I have been waiting for the day when we would

meet," Banda told Clinton as the two held hands.

She "encouraged President Banda to be a role model in Southern Africa for more democratic governance and also regional integration among the states of this region," said a State Department official who attended the meeting.

Clinton "commended the decisions of Banda's first 100 days" including a move to float the currency.

Malawi devalued the kwacha by nearly 34 percent against the US dollar in May, after it traded at double the official exchange on the black market and drove foreign currency from the banking system.

Clinton also warned the Malawi government against corruption, which she called a "hidden tax on the Malawi people".

During her last stop in the country at a milk cooperative she announced a \$46 million (37 million euros) investment in agriculture over the next three years.

Milk production had increased by 500 percent over the last decade thanks to funds from the US, the impoverished nation's largest bi-

lateral donor, she added.

As part of a marathon eleven-day Africa tour she flew later Sunday to South Africa, where she would meet with anti-apartheid icon and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nelson Mandela in the week.

A spokeswoman confirmed Clinton tagged visits to Nigeria and Benin onto the trip after South Africa. She is also expected in Ghana for the state funeral of late president John Atta Mills.

Banda, a former women's right activists, was sworn in as president in April following the death of late president Bingu wa Mutharika.

Her rise to power was a victory in a nation where a gang stripped women in public in January for wearing trousers.

Banda swiftly set about restoring relations with foreign donors, who had suspended funds due to concerns about hardline governance and rights issues under Mutharika.

In June the US said it would restore aid worth \$350 million to Malawi's energy sector in light of Banda's "bold actions" to reform the government.

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International News

Philippine school bans Muslim hijab



MANILA -(AFP) A Catholic-run school in the southern Philippines has caused controversy by banning Muslim students from wearing the hijab headscarf.

Mehol Sadain, who heads the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, said Sunday he had written to Pilar College in the mixed Muslim-Christian port city of Zamboanga to demand it reverse its policy.

While the school was right to claim it could exercise academic freedom, Sadain said it

should do so with "justice and fair play".

The complaint has reached the local city council, which asked the school to reply to the allegations.

The school is believed to be the first in the Philippines to enforce an outright ban on wearing the hijab.

Sadain noted that an education department policy states that Muslim girls should be allowed to wear their head coverings in school and be exempted from non-Muslim re-

ligious rites.

But the school, run by the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, said in its letter to the council that it could not "deviate" from its Catholic leanings.

It said students from other religions were welcome to enrol but must strictly follow its non-hijab policy.

It was not clear what percentage of students were Muslim but it is fairly common that children from different denominations or religions mix at school in the mainly Catholic but largely tolerant Philippines.

One year on, vigil held for London riots death man



LONDON (AFP) - Family and friends of the man whose fatal shooting by police sparked riots across England a year ago gathered in London on Sunday to honour his memory.

Around 100 people turned up to Tottenham Town Hall in north London ahead of a memorial service for 29-year-old Mark Duggan, who was shot in the chest at the nearby Ferry Lane bridge on August 4 last year.

Supporters were met by a small band playing uplifting ballads and teenage girls handing out refreshments. A dozen yellow roses had been taped to the railings at the spot where Duggan died.

"Life is so short, they've just taken him," said Duggan's sister Paulette, during an emotional service. "Most of the young today feel like they don't have a chance."

Brother Jason revealed the family was still "none the wiser" about the ongoing police investigation into the

shooting. It was impossible to "get the closure we need" until it was published, he said.

Last year, local protests against the shooting turned violent and within days a wave of looting and arson had spread across English cities, leaving five people dead and causing millions of pounds worth of damage to property.

On Friday, Duggan's mother made a plea for justice on Friday, saying the family had still not received a full explanation of how her son died.

A provisional date for an inquest into Duggan's death has been set for January 2013.

Initial reports that the father-of-four had fired at officers were dismissed after tests found that a bullet that had lodged itself in one officer's radio was police issue.

Scotland Yard were also forced to apologise to Duggan's parents after an inquiry found that police had failed to formally notify the family of his death.

Greek police detains 1,130 immigrants



ATHENS (AFP) - Greek police vowed Sunday not to relent in their efforts to evict undocumented immigrants after a sweep they said had netted 1,130 in central Athens over the weekend.

Police said a total of 4,900 people were rounded up in the capital on week-end, of which 1,130 were detained.

Operation Xenios Zeus, named after the name of the king of the ancient Greek gods in his role as protector of

guests, mobilised 2,000 police in Athens and another 2,500 on Greece's eastern border with Turkey.

Police spokesman Christos Manouras said the operation was a necessity for debt-laden Greece's national survival.

"We must send the message that Greece cannot afford work and hospitality" to would-be immigrants, he said.

Located in the southeastern extremity of the European Union, Greece has become a

popular transit point for migrants from Asia or Africa seeking to enter the bloc.

But as the country struggles with a crippling economic crisis and sweeping austerity cuts, social tensions are on the rise and the increase in undocumented immigrants has fuelled xenophobia and racist attacks.

For the first time in Greek political history, the country in June voted into parliament a neo-Nazi party, Golden Dawn, which has promised to purge the country of illegal migrants.

Current figures show Greece has about 800,000 legally-registered immigrants, while the number of those without papers is estimated at more than 350,000.

On Wednesday police said they were tripling the number of guards along Greece's border with Turkey to 1,800 to ward off any influx of Syrian refugees.



LETTTRINCKOUCKE, France: Participants compete during the International Shrimp Peeling Competition on August 5, 2012 in the northern city of Leffrinckoucke. It took ten minutes to Vanzinghel to peel 150gr (5.3 oz) of shrimps and to win the competition for the 6th time. 120 participants took part to the 8th edition of the Competition.
AFP PHOTO

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International News

Germany insists military action not the answer in Syria

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's defence minister again ruled out military intervention in Syria Sunday, warning it should not be considered a knee-jerk response to the failure of diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed.

Thomas de Maiziere told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper that Kofi Annan's decision to quit as international peace envoy to Syria did not change Germany's stance on the sending of troops into the nearly 17-month conflict.

"The failure of diplomacy must not automatically bring about the onset of the military," he said in an interview with the paper.

Activists say the conflict has killed more than 20,000 people, and De Maiziere told the paper it was "frustrating" to see the killings in Syria without being able to act directly to stop them.

But he said Germany must help in other ways, by providing humanitarian aid and logistic support for the democratically-minded members of the Syrian opposition.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle told Bild newspaper that whoever succeeded Annan would need a strong mandate from the international community and the support of the UN Security Council.

Annan, when he quit last week, said he had not got the international backing he needed to do his job.

"Kofi Annan's peace plan is still the best basis for ending the violence and getting a political solution," he tells Bild, in its edition due out Monday.

"An immediate end to the violence and the establishment of a transitional govern-

ment without (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad" were the pre-requisites for a solution to the crisis, he added.

He also said that those states that had backed Assad during the crisis carried a great deal of responsibility for the ongoing conflict, which appeared to be an allusion to Russia.

Russia, which has vowed to block all attempts to legitimise the use of force against its Soviet-era ally through the United Nations, says a continued UN presence in the conflict-torn country is the key to solving the crisis.

The Berlin-based think tank, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, has said it is working with up to 50 members of the Syrian opposition on plans for a political transition after a possible ouster of Assad.

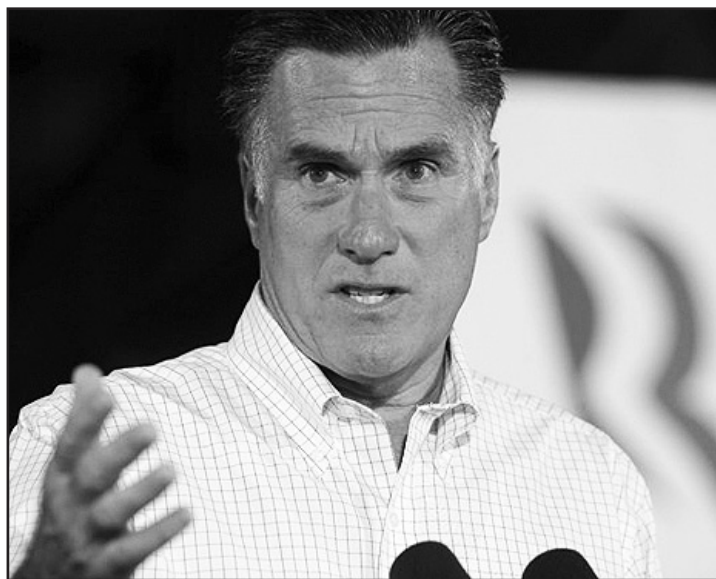
Saudi invites Iran for extraordinary Muslim summit

RIYADH (AFP) - Saudi King Abdullah invited Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for an extraordinary summit of Muslim leaders to be held this month in the holy city of Mecca, state news agency SPA reported Sunday.

The Saudi monarch "sent a written letter to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inviting him to attend the extraordinary Islamic solidarity meeting which will be held in Mecca" in mid-August, SPA reported.

Tensions have been running high between the Sunni-dominated kingdom and Shiite Iran as both regional powers had taken opposite stances on the uprisings in Bahrain and Syria.

Romney urges 'dramatic' measures, not stimulus



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney says the US economy needs "dramatic" measures to recover from a deep recession, but not another federal stimulus package.

"I can absolutely make the case that now is the time for something dramatic and it is not to grow government," the multimillionaire former businessman and investor said in an interview that aired Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

Romney, who is challenging President Barack Obama in November's election, said that instead, he would rather create "the incentives and the opportunities" for big and small businesses to increase hiring.

The former Massachusetts governor favors lowering individual and corporate tax rates, slashing government spending and easing regulations on energy companies to help make America energy independent by 2020.

He has predicted that his economic plan would lead to 12 million new jobs created by the end of his first four-year term, something he told

CNN would be a "normal process" of economic recovery.

"When you come out of the kind of recession we've had, you should see this kind of creation," he added in the interview conducted Saturday in Evansville, Indiana.

"We should be seeing 200, 300, 400,000 jobs a month to regain much of what has been lost. That is what normally happens after a recession, but under this president, we have not seen that kind of pattern."

The White House hopeful blasted President Obama's tax plan, which would allow tax cuts to expire for people who earn more than \$250,000 a year, saying it would "kill jobs."

"The great majority of small businesses pay taxes at

the individual rate. So as he raises these taxes 'on the wealthy,' he's raising taxes on small business," he said.

Romney said he was concerned about middle class Americans, who "need our help with good jobs," not the wealthy, who "are going to do just fine, whoever is elected."

Top Obama campaign adviser Robert Gibbs fired back, saying it's "hard to get millionaires and billionaires to get rid of their tax breaks."

"In order to give the rich tax breaks, (Romney) is going to raise taxes on middle class families," the former White House press secretary told CNN, adding "that's not me saying that, that's the (non-partisan) Tax Policy Center saying that this week."

He insisted that Obama's policies have worked.

"There's no doubt we are better off than we were four years ago," Gibbs said.

"Are we where we need to be? Absolutely not. Nobody thinks that. We have worked hard to move this economy forward. And we can't go backward and try the idea that Mitt Romney wants, which is more tax cuts for rich people."

Obama has slammed Romney's "fairy dust" tax cuts in a television attack ad, claiming that his rival would swell his own wealth while sticking the middle class with the bill.

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Health & Living

UN weighs in on Philippine birth control debate



MANILA (AFP) - The United Nations warned Sunday that failure to pass a controversial birth control law in the Philippines could reverse gains in development goals amid stiff opposition from the powerful Catholic Church.

The bill seeks to make it mandatory for the government to provide free contraceptives in a country where more than 80 percent of the population is

Catholic and which has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Southeast Asia.

Ugoch Daniels, country representative from the UN Population Fund, said she remained "cautiously optimistic" that Presi-

dent Benigno Aquino's allies who dominate the House of Representatives could muster the numbers to pass the bill on Tuesday after 14 years of often divisive debate.

Unless the bill is passed, she said maternal deaths in the Philippines would continue to rise with more and more women getting pregnant at a young age without the proper

health care and access to key reproductive information.

Between 2006 and 2010, the maternal mortality rate increased to 221 deaths per 100,000 live births, from 162 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 2005, according to the government's 2011 Family Health Survey.

The UN's call came as Catholic priests and nuns led thousands in a protest rally in Manila Saturday to urge lawmakers to scrap the bill.

Besides free contraception, it would also give the poor preferential access to family planning services in state hospitals, while lessons on family planning and sex education would become compulsory in schools and for couples applying for a marriage licence.

The UN has said a lack of education and access to condoms has led to an explosion of HIV infections in the Philippines, which it said is now one of seven countries in the world where cases have risen by 25 percent or more since 2001.

CDC Warns Against Contact with Pigs Due to New Swine Flu Strain



The CDC recommends the following prevention tips:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and running water before and after exposure to animals.
 - Never eat, drink or put things in your mouth while in animal areas and don't take food or drink into animal areas.
 - Young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and people with weakened immune systems should be extra careful around animals.
 - If you have animals—including swine—watch them for signs of illness and call a veterinarian if you suspect they might be sick.
 - Avoid close contact with animals that look or act ill, when possible.
 - Avoid contact with pigs if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.
 - If you must come in contact with pigs while you are sick, or if you must come in contact with pigs known or suspected to be infected, or their environment, you should use appropriate protective measures (for example, wear protective clothing, gloves, masks that cover your mouth and nose, and other personal protective equipment) and practice good respiratory and hand hygiene.
- The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza viruses. Pigs, like humans, are susceptible to the virus.

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China arrests 137 over organ-trafficking ring

BEIJING (AFP) - Chinese police arrested 137 people, among them doctors, suspected of trafficking human organs in a nationwide crime ring that profited from the huge demand for transplants, authorities said.

In a sting operation beginning in late July, police pounced across 18 provinces and regions and "rescued" 127 people who had agreed to donate organs to illicit traders, the Ministry of Public Security said.

Eighteen doctors were among those detained, suspected of performing illegal transplant operations, the ministry said in a report posted on its website late Saturday.

"The suspects usually used forged identities to recruit healthy candidates from the Internet and put them under secret confinement separated from the outside world," it said. "The suspects sought patients in need of organ transplants from hospitals or the Internet and matched them with healthy donors."

The crackdown on traffickers comes after state media reported in April that a teenage high-school student sold a kidney for an illicit transplant operation and used the proceeds to buy an iPhone and iPad.

The 17-year-old boy, who was paid 22,000 yuan (\$3,500), was recruited from

an online chatroom. The Xinhua news agency said at the time the boy was suffering from kidney failure and in deteriorating health.

More than 1.5 million Chinese need organ transplants, but only about 10,000 such operations are performed in the nation annually, Xinhua said, citing statistics from the health ministry.

The huge demand has led to a thriving illegal market for organs, the ministry said.

Executed prisoners remain the main source of organs used in transplant operations due to the lack of voluntary donations, Vice Health Minister Huang Jiefu was quoted by state media as saying early this year.

Following repeated criticism from overseas rights groups, Huang pledged to wean the nation off of its dependency on organs from prisoners.

International human rights groups have long accused China of harvesting organs from executed prisoners without the consent of the prisoner or their family -- charges the government has denied.

The lack of available organs for transplants largely stems from an absence of a "transplant culture" in China compared to the West and the traditional idea that the body must be left as it is at death.



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Sci-Tech

Chemotherapy can backfire and boost cancer growth: study



PARIS (AFP) - Cancer-busting chemotherapy can cause damage to healthy cells which triggers them to secrete a protein that sustains tumour growth and resistance to further treatment, a study said Sunday.

Researchers in the United States made the "completely

unexpected" finding while seeking to explain why cancer cells are so resilient inside the human body when they are easy to kill in the lab.

They tested the effects of a type of chemotherapy on tissue collected from men with prostate cancer, and found "evidence of DNA damage" in

healthy cells after treatment, the scientists wrote in *Nature Medicine*.

Chemotherapy works by inhibiting reproduction of fast-dividing cells such as those found in tumours.

The scientists found that healthy cells damaged by chemotherapy secreted more of a protein called WNT16B which boosts cancer cell survival.

"The increase in WNT16B was completely unexpected," study co-author Peter Nelson of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle told AFP.

The protein was taken up by tumour cells neighbouring the damaged cells.

"WNT16B, when secreted, would interact with nearby tumour cells and cause them to grow, invade, and importantly, resist subsequent therapy," said Nelson.

In cancer treatment, tumours often respond well initially, followed by rapid regrowth and then resistance to further chemotherapy.

Rates of tumour cell reproduction have been shown to accelerate between treatments.

The researchers said they confirmed their findings with breast and ovarian cancer tumours.

The result paves the way for research into new, improved treatment, said Nelson.

"For example, an antibody to WNT16B, given with chemotherapy, may improve responses (kill more tumour cells)," he said in an email exchange. "Alternatively, it may be possible to use smaller, less toxic doses of therapy."

Apple co-founder Wozniak sees trouble in the cloud



CALIFORNIA - (AFP) Steve Wozniak, who co-founded Apple with the late Steve Jobs, predicted "horrible problems" in the coming years as cloud-based computing takes hold.

Wozniak, 61, was the star turn at the penultimate performance in Washington of "The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs," monologist Mike Daisey's controversial two-hour expose of Apple's labor conditions in China.

In a post-performance dialogue with Daisey and audience members, Wozniak held forth on topics as varied as public education.

But the engineering wizard behind the progenitor of today's personal computer, the Apple II, was most outspoken on the shift away from hard

disks towards uploading data into remote servers, known as cloud computing.

"I really worry about everything going to the cloud," he said. "I think it's going to be horrendous. I think there are going to be a lot of horrible problems in the next five years."

He added: "With the cloud, you don't own anything. You already signed it away" through the legalistic terms of service with a cloud provider that computer users must agree to.

"I want to feel that I own things," Wozniak said. "A lot of people feel, 'Oh, everything is really on my computer,' but I say the more we transfer everything onto the web, onto the cloud, the less we're going to have control over it."



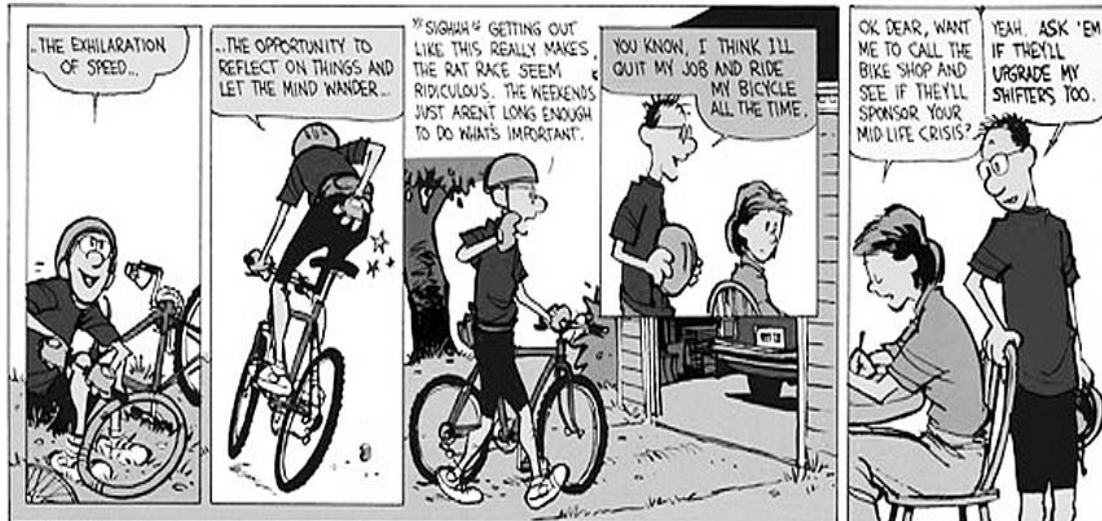
QUITO (AFP) - An Ecuadoran court has ordered US oil firm Chevron to pay some \$19 billion -- a billion dollars more than an original order -- by Monday for environmental damage. The complaint stems from years of unchecked pollution in the Amazon attributed to Texaco, which Chevron acquired in 2001. The US oil firm Texaco contaminated large areas of Ecuador's Amazon jungle when it operated in the region from 1964 to 1990, a decade before being acquired by Chevron, according to indigenous groups and local farmers.



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BUYING OFF-THE-SHELF

ACROSS

1. — Holliday
4. Alejandro or Fernando
7. Not quite closed
11. Gardner of "On the Beach"
12. Middle —
14. Storied Roman fiddler
15. Bona fide bucks
17. Pace
18. Oliver or Rex
19. Rectifies
21. One of MGM's ems
23. Personal hero

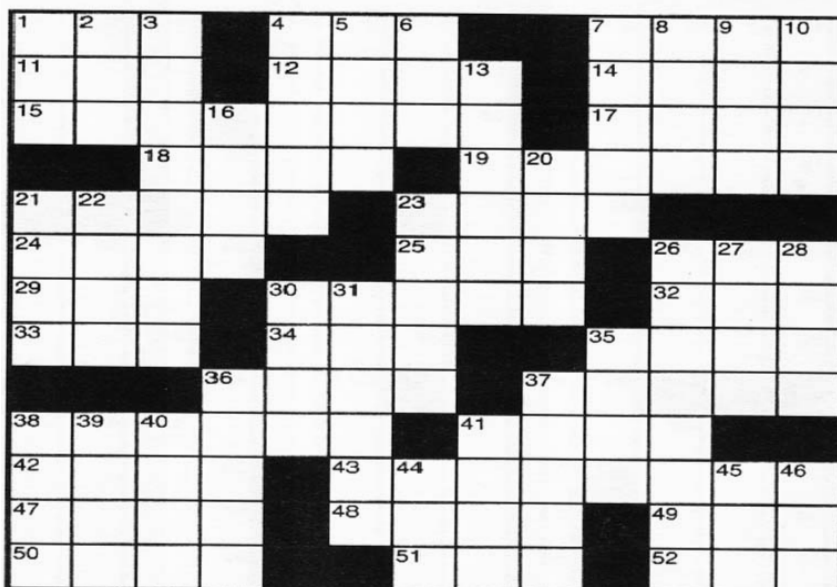
24. Incense emanation
25. Neither's tagalong
26. Half of a Moulin Rouge dance
29. After sigma
30. Sketched
32. Porter
33. CPR administrant
34. Stimp's cartoon companion
35. Native Manitoban
36. Annoying to Miss Manners
37. Propelled a

- boat
38. Kael's world
41. Give it —
42. Caesar's fateful date
43. Partial payment
47. EEG or EKG
48. Grown-up sapling
49. Opponent
50. Chow
51. "— Baby" (Toni Morrison novel)
52. Not many

DOWN

1. Morse code unit

2. Fish spawn
3. Fast-food service
4. NASCAR vehicle
5. "Drat!"
6. Agreement word
7. — food cake
8. Actress Marsh
9. Like Arizona's climate
10. Falls into ruin
13. Peter Pan's loss
16. Cervine creature
20. A.M., to a poet
21. Flyspeck
22. Arkin or Sandler
23. Foolish
26. Perform successfully
27. Toward shelter, at sea
28. Necessity
30. After ear or snare
31. Edit
35. Comb wool
36. Sojourns
37. Alternate
38. Paris, e.g., to Pierre
39. Brain's output
40. Avian's home
41. Cruising
44. Illustrations
45. Trouble
46. Revolutionary



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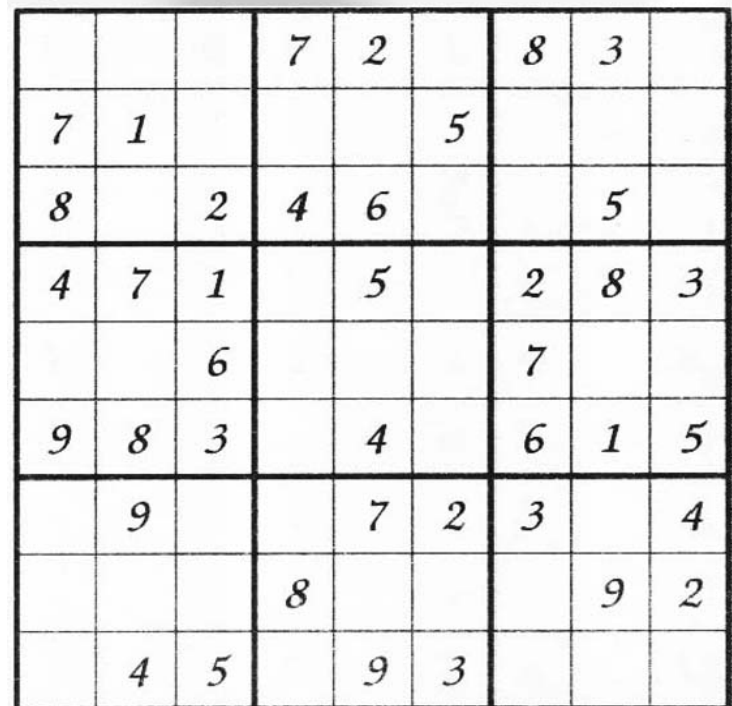
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| 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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| Current as 08/03/2012 | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.75 | 1.77 | 1.79 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.70 | 2.75 | 2.81 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 181.35 | 182.07 | 182.87 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 216.12 | 218.09 | 220.28 |
| Sweden | SEK | 25.35 | 26.07 | 26.87 |
| Denmark | DKK | 28.33 | 29.05 | 29.85 |
| Norway | NOK | 28.62 | 29.34 | 30.14 |
| Japan | JPY | 225.47 | 227.53 | 229.82 |

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Monti fears eurozone crisis could tear Europe apart



BERLIN (AFP) - Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti has voiced fears that tensions sparked by the eurozone crisis have already turned countries against each other and must not be allowed to rip Europe apart.

Asked about resentment in Italy towards Germany and complaints of German arrogance in its handling of the debt crisis, Monti told Monday's edition of the German news magazine Der Spiegel

that he was "concerned".

He said he had talked about growing resentment in Italy not only towards Germany and at times Chancellor Angela Merkel but also towards the EU and the euro, with Merkel herself, according to an advance copy of Der Spiegel.

But he said the problem went far beyond the relationship between Germany and Italy.

"The pressures, which have accompanied the eurozone in recent years, already bear the traits of a psychological breakup of Europe," Monti said. "We must work hard to contain it."

And he warned that if the euro became a reason for Europe to drift apart, "the foundations of the European project" would be destroyed.

Ecuador court orders Chevron to pay \$19 bn

QUITO (AFP) - An Ecuadorian court has ordered US oil firm Chevron to pay some \$19 billion -- a billion dollars more than an original order -- by Monday for environmental damage.

Attorney Juan Pablo Saenz said the plaintiffs could organize embargoes if Chevron does not comply with the order from a court in the northeastern Amazonian province of Sucumbios.

The complaint stems from years of unchecked pollution in the Amazon attributed to Texaco, which Chevron acquired in 2001.

Chevron has called the judgement a "product of bribery, fraud," saying it was "illegitimate" and not enforceable after plaintiffs filed lawsuits in Canada and Brazil

to go after the company's assets in third countries.

Plaintiffs say Chevron has virtually no assets in Ecuador that could be seized.

The US oil firm Texaco contaminated large areas of Ecuador's Amazon jungle when it operated in the region from 1964 to 1990, a decade before being acquired by Chevron, according to indigenous groups and local farmers.

After years of litigation, an Ecuadorian court in February 2011 ordered the company to pay \$18 billion in damages, a ruling upheld by Ecuador's Supreme Court in March.

Chevron, which has appealed the ruling, has accused the Ecuadorian judge who ruled on the case of fraud and breach of trust.



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Finance

Dutch firm ASML clinches 1.1 bn euro deal with Taiwan's TSMC

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - Dutch-based ASML, a key global supplier of computer chip-making systems, said Sunday it has clinched an investment deal with Taiwanese semiconductor giant TSMC worth over a billion euros (\$1.24 billion).

"ASML Holding announces that TSMC has joined (ASML's) customer co-investment programme for innovation, committing to invest 276 million euros in research and development," the Dutch company said in a statement.

The Taiwanese firm will invest a further "838 million euros in a five percent ASML equity stake," the Dutch firm

added.

The deal is part of a five-year programme in which companies are invited to invest in ASML's research and development to help speed up advances in tools for making computer chips.

As part of the programme, ASML may also issue shares to clients reaching a total of a 25 percent stake in the company, which is based in Veldhoven in southern Netherlands.

Last month, US-based Intel Corporation announced it was putting in around 3.3 billion euros in ASML and buying up to a 15 percent equity stake in the Dutch firm, to speed up the development of technology for chips made on 450-millimeter diameter semiconductor wafers.

ASML operates in 16 countries and manufactures machines used to make integrated circuits and semiconductors. It has some 8,000 full-time employees.

Headquartered in northwestern Taiwan's Hsinchu, the Taiwanese Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is the world's first dedicated semiconductor foundry and employs more than 33,000 people world-wide.

Oil deal no quick fix for Sudan crisis: analysts

KHARTOUM (AFP) - A last-minute oil deal reached on Saturday between Sudan and South Sudan offers no quick fix for Khartoum's economic crisis and remains tied to progress on security issues, analysts say.

Both sides agreed Juba would pay Khartoum a package amounting to about \$3 billion, as well as a per-barrel fee for sending its oil through the north's infrastructure for export via Port Sudan.

Juba said the fee is \$9.48 per barrel.

Khartoum has not commented on the final fee, but El Shafie Mohammed El Makki, head of political science at the University of Khartoum, said the figures are not encouraging although "something is better than nothing."

Oil has been at the heart of tensions and economic difficulties for Sudan since the South separated in July last year with roughly 75 percent of the 470,000 barrels per day produced by the unified country before independence.

The lost oil accounted for more than 85 percent of Khartoum's export earnings, which reached \$7.5 billion in the first half of 2011, according to the World Bank.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | O | P | A | C | T | S | A | N | D |
| L | A | V | A | C | L | O | T | L | E | A |
| E | T | A | L | R | U | T | A | E | R | R |
| S | A | L | E | R | O | B | E | R | T | S |
| R | U | B | S | T | | | | | | |
| G | R | A | E | A | T | R | H | E | A | |
| R | O | B | E | R | T | R | E | D | F | O |
| B | E | E | R | A | F | R | T | A | D | |
| S | B | A | F | A | D | | | | | |
| M | I | S | T | E | R | R | O | B | E | R |
| A | D | E | B | E | A | R | F | O | A | L |
| T | E | E | O | N | I | T | E | T | R | E |
| E | A | R | P | A | D | S | R | E | A | D |

Marilyns from around the world meet for Monroe tributes

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - When a faux Hugh Hefner, clad in his trademark smoking jacket, finishes his karaoke song, he turns to Marilyn Monroe and asks: "Do you want to marry me?"

Some 200 Monroe fans from as far away as Italy and Australia met there to honor the real Marilyn Monroe, who was just 36 and at the height of her career when she succumbed to a barbiturate overdose.

Over the weekend, fans will honor Monroe's memory at several events, including a banquet at the 20th Century Fox studios and, on Sunday, a memorial service at a Los Angeles Presbyterian church.

Other tributes have already taken place.

At a pool party, women dressed like extras from the 1960s hit show "Mad Men." Several wore bright red lipstick and dangled long cigarettes from their fingers.

Guests included Ernesto Galindez, who claims to have the largest collection of Marilyn memorabilia in his native Venezuela. His trove comprises checks and other documents signed by the diva, as



well -- or so he claims -- all of the magazine covers featuring the star.

Freelance writer Leslee Kasperozic said she attributes the enduring interest in Marilyn's life to the fact that the star was able to blend the beauty and fickle behavior of a diva with a heavy dose of vulnerability.

One of the event stars was a Marilyn impersonator from the Netherlands who attracted a crowd of adoring fans. Decked out in a single-piece light blue swimsuit, she flashed sultry smiles in a perfect Marilyn imitation.

Another Marilyn impersonator -- or "tribute artist" as they

like to be known -- wore a green velvet dress, a replica of the gown the star sported in "River of No Return" (1954).

The woman gave an excellent rendition of "I'm Gonna File My Claim," the song Monroe sang in the movie.

"It's my passion," said Banville, a 35 year-old from Ottawa, the Canadian capital.

Her boyfriend, Morgan Blackbyrne, dressed up as Playboy magazine millionaire Hugh Hefner, was the one who sang the karaoke song before popping the big question.

"Of course!" Banville answered as the crowd of Marilyn's sighed adoringly.

No regrets for India's first 'Playmate'



NEW DELHI (AFP) - The first Indian woman to pose naked for Playboy magazine says she is proud to have "pushed the envelope" in a country where public nudity in any form remains largely taboo.

Minor Bollywood actress Sherlyn Chopra, 28, will feature in a nude spread in the November issue of the magazine, although her Indian fans will be hard pushed to get hold of a copy.

Playboy, along with a host of other foreign "adult" magazines, is banned in India, which has strict obscenity laws proscribing any public act or published material deemed to be "lascivious or appealing to

prurient interests".

News that Chopra had become India's first "Playmate" caused quite a stir, fuelled by Chopra herself posting nude out-take pictures from the Playboy shoot on the microblogging site Twitter.

As well as some inevitably lascivious and prurient responses, many Indian Twitter users criticised her decision and accused her of a desperate publicity stunt to further her acting career. She had written to Playboy herself expressing an interest in posing.

"If you consider being the 1st Indian woman to pose for Playboy an 'achievement,' you should consider raising your standards," tweeted @Sunu_K.

In an e-mail interview with AFP, Chopra dismissed her critics and said she considered herself a pioneer for sexual freedom in India.

Chopra's Bollywood career to date has been decidedly B-list, with bit roles in less than a dozen movies, including the 2003 box-office dud "Dosti" (Friendship) and a film titled "Naughty Boy".

Her labelling as a "Bollywood legend" on the Playboy website was widely mocked in India, and Chopra admitted it was a "surreal" tag.

Indian writers, actors and artists who have sought to push the boundaries of traditional Indian morals have sometimes found themselves targeted by conservative religious groups, but Chopra appeared unworried at the prospect of a backlash.

The publicity generated by Chopra's shoot has been overshadowed in recent days by the release of what has been billed as one of India's raunchiest mainstream movies, "Jism 2" (Body 2).

Real-life adult film star Sunny Leone -- born in India to Canadian parents -- plays a porn actress in the movie, which has stirred controversy with its provocative publicity material and content.

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HOWICK, South Africa : A sculpture of former South African President Nelson Mandela, is presented on August 4, 2012 in Howick, 90 kms South of Durban, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Mandela's capture by the apartheid police. The unique sculpture designed by artist Marco Cianfanelli stands 10 metres tall and is made from 50 steel columns anchored in a concrete base. Mandela, now 94, was arrested as a young liberation fighter on August 5, 1962 near the town of Howick, just months after he founded the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC). A modest monument at the site of his arrest was put up in 1996, but it will now be eclipsed by the monumental sculpture made up of 50 steel rods of between five and 10 metres high symbolizing the prison.

AFP PHOTO

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and

drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious,

connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge



offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet



services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion

When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.



The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.



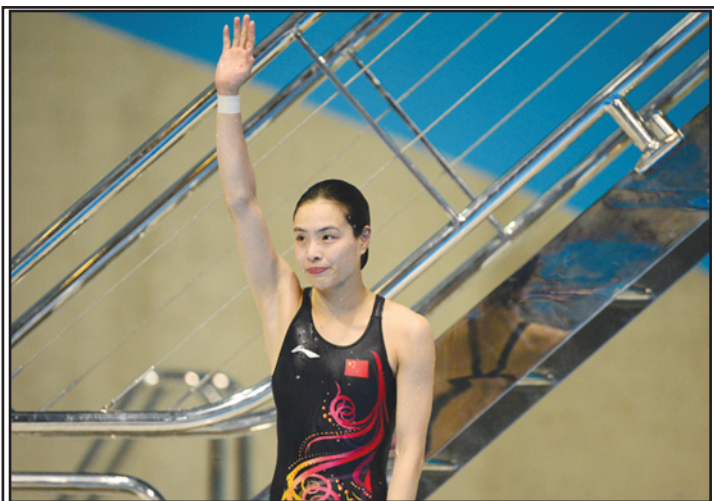
**Summer Olympics:
July 27 - August 12**



King Bolt retains 100m title in style



LONDON (AFP) - American Sanya Richards-Ross won the women's 400m Olympic title on Sunday in a time of 49.55sec to end a 28-year gold drought in the event for the United States. Defending champion Christine Ohuruogu of Great Britain finished second in 49.70sec while DeeDee Trotter of the United States took bronze in 49.72sec. Richards-Ross, 27, became the first American to win the Olympic title since Valerie Brisco-Hooks in Los Angeles in 1984 and will attempt to emulate her when she tries to add 200 metres gold later in the Games. Five years ago she almost had to retire because of a mystery illness initially diagnosed as Behcets syndrome but which a new doctor believes is a skin disease.



LONDON (AFP) - Wu Minxia praised Guo Jingjing as her 'big sister' after equalling the Chinese diving great's record of six Olympic medals in consummately taking out the 3m springboard gold medal yesterday. Wu, 26, was in a superior class to her 11 rivals reeling off five impeccable dives to tally 414.00 points and comfortably defeat her younger teammate He Zi by 34.80 points for the gold. It was Wu's sixth Olympics medal and equalled the best of her former synchro diving partner Guo, who won four gold and two silvers over three Games from 2000 to 2008. Wu paid tribute to Guo's influence in making her the world's contemporary pre-eminent women's diver. Wu's individual victory following her synchro success with He earlier in the competition, lifted China's tally to five golds in five events and kept them on track to an unprecedented sweep of all eight diving gold medals in London. But Wu downplayed any obsession within the Chinese team to achieve the goal after narrowly missing out in Beijing four years ago when they won seven of the eight events. "Actually, we don't think about the number of gold medals. We believe in the final results," Wu said. Her successes come just days after a Chinese newspaper revealed her parents had kept the death of her grandparents and her mother's struggle with cancer from the champion diver in order not to distract her preparations for the London Games.



LONDON (AFP) - Jamaica's Usain Bolt sealed his status as the greatest sprinter of all time after retaining the men's Olympic 100m title with an electrifying display yesterday.

The world record holder turned on the after-burners at 60m to clock an Olympic record of 9.63sec, the second fastest time in history.

"I executed and that was the key," Bolt said. "When it comes to the championships, it's all about business for me and I brought it."

Jamaican compatriot and training partner Yohan Blake, long tipped as Bolt's successor as the fastest man in the world, claimed silver after equalling his personal best of 9.75sec.

American 2004 Olympic gold medallist Justin Gatlin completed his remarkable comeback from a four-year doping ban by taking the bronze medal in a personal best of 9.79sec.

The 2007 double world champion Tyson Gay came in fourth, one hundredth of a second off his teammate Gatlin in 9.80sec, with a third American, Ryan Bailey, fifth in 9.88.

The sell-out 80,000-capacity crowd at the Olympic Stadium were on their feet when the eight finalists, including the four fastest men in the world - Bolt, Gay, Blake and Asafa Powell - lined up.

As the television cameras picked out each racer, the excitement mounted as they reached Bolt in lane seven, dressed in black shorts and the yellow and green singlet of the Jamaican team.

The 25-year-old showed no signs of nerves as he bid to replicate his gold medal showing in the Beijing Games in 2008.

To mass delight, he practised his DJ mixing skills, one

hand raised to his ear, and then drew laughter after drawing



pretend pistols and reholstering them after pointing them down the track.

As the starter called them to the blocks, Bolt put a finger to his lips to hush the excitable crowd, briefly crossing himself and looking skywards as the television zoomed in and his picture was broadcast on the big stadium screen.

As silence descended, the gun went and Bolt's reaction time from the blocks saw him rocket away, but Gatlin had the edge on his left.

Bolt, however, pushed his huge frame through his renowned drive and transition phase after 50 metres.

Teeth gritted and long legs pumping, Bolt completed what turned out to be a remarkably comfortable victory given the quality and strength of the field.

After Bolt crossed the line, he immediately set off on a lap of victory, a Jamaican flag draped over his shoulders and Blake in tow.

He stopped to perform his customary "bow and arrow" pose at various points, to chants of "Usain, Usain!" ringing around the stadium.

It was a remarkable result for the Jamaican who revolu-

tionised sprinting, and indeed athletics, four years ago in Beijing, setting then-world records when winning the 100 and 200m titles, and also starring in a record-breaking Jamaican quartet in the 4x100m relay.

He left the Chinese capital as one of the most recognisable figures in world sport, unbelievably going on to beat both his individual sprint marks with new times (9.58 and 19.19sec) in the Berlin worlds in 2009.

Bolt lost his world 100m

title in Daegu, South Korea, last July to Blake after sensationally false starting in the final, but has fired back in most emphatic fashion.

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Pistorius fails to qualify for 400 metres final



LONDON (AFP) - South African double amputee Oscar Pistorius failed to qualify for the Olympic Games men's 400m final on Sunday.

The 25-year-old had on Saturday become the first double amputee to compete in an athletics event at the Olympics, but he was never in contention in his semi-final and finished last in a time of 46.54sec.

Pistorius, though, was far from disappointed at bowing out.

"The whole experience is mind-blowing," said Pistorius, who had been supported in London by his 89-year-old grandmother.

"My aim was to make the semi-final. It's a dream come true. Thanks to everyone for their support. I've got the (4x400m) relay in a few days." There was a touching mo-

ment after the race as Grenada's world champion Kirani James asked to swap bibs with the South African.

"As soon as we crossed the line, we're friends," said Pistorius. "It was very kind of him. We share a similar life. It's

what the Olympics is all about. It's great to make good friends."

James, who last year became the youngest ever world or Olympic champion in the event at 18 when he won in Daegu, said that Pistorius deserved all the accolades.

"He's an inspiration to all of us. He is very special to our sport," he said. "He's a down-to-earth guy and a great individual."

Nicknamed 'The Blade Runner' because he runs on carbon fibre blades fought a long battle to be allowed to run in the Olympics.

A panel of experts finally declared he could compete as long as he used the same pair of blades he used in the Paralympic Games.



LONDON: Brazilian centre Clarissa Santos (L) vies with British centre Azania Stewart during the women's preliminary round group B basketball match Great Britain vs Brazil of the London 2012 Olympic Games on August 5, 2012 at the basketball arena in London.

AFP PHOTO



LONDON: Brazil's Danielle Lins spikes as Serbia's Ivana Djerisilo (L) attempts to block during their London 2012 Olympic Games women's preliminary pool B volleyball match

AFP PHOTO



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Women's boxing makes Olympic debut



Natasha Jonas of Great Britain celebrates at the end of her match against Quanitta Underwood of the USA

LONDON (AFP) - Women's boxing made its Olympic debut on Sunday as British lightweight Natasha Jonas vowed not to be intimidated when she faces Irish world champion Katie Taylor in today's quarter-final.

With women competing in the fly, light and middleweight categories for the first time at an Olympics, Jonas dug deep Sunday for a hard-earned 21-13 first-round win over Quanitta Underwood of the USA.

The top seeds all have byes into the quarter-finals and four-time world champion Taylor now faces Jonas for a place in Wednesday's semi-final at London's ExCel Arena.

Having lost 6-3 to the Irishwoman when the pair fought in Bulgaria last year, Jonas has vowed to raise her game.

On the other side of the lightweight draw, second-seed Sofya Ochigava of Russia will face Alexis Pritchard of New Zealand in her quarter-final after her 15-10 win over Tunisia's Rim Jouini.

In the flyweight division, five-times world champion M.C. Mary Kom of India showed great early form for a dogged 19-14 win over Poland's Karolina Michalczuk.

Kom, has stepped up from

light flyweight and was in tears after her victory -- on her twin sons' fifth birthday.

"It is a very emotional day for me," said the 29-year-old.

Kom faces Tunisia's Maroua Rahali in her last eight bout, while world champion Ren Cancan of China will take on Russia's Elena Savelyeva, who won the historic first bout of the day 12-9 against Kim Hye-Song of North Korea.

Like Rahali, home favourite Nicola Adams had a bye into Monday's last eight clash where she will face Bulgaria's Stoyka Petrova, who enjoyed a 23-11 win over New Zealand's Siona Fernandes in their bout.

British world champion Savannah Marshall is the middleweight name and she faces Kazakhstan's Marina Volnova, who dominated Kenya's Elizabeth Andiego for a comfortable 20-11 win.

Elena Vystropova of Azerbaijan, who Marshall beat in May to win the world title, suffered a first-round exit as she was upset by Nigeria's Edith Ogoke who won three of the four rounds for a deserved 14-12 victory.

Ogoke will now face second-seed Nadezda Torlopova of Russia in Monday's quarter-final.

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TENNIS - Finals



WIMBLEDON — US Serena Williams (R) and Venus Williams pose on the podium after receiving their gold medal for winning the London 2012 Olympic Games women's doubles tennis tournament. Serena Williams relishes her role as copycat little sister. Even if it takes her 12 years. Now she has that Olympic double – just like Venus. Venus and Serena Williams became the first tennis players to win four Olympic golds on Sunday after a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Czech pair Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka in the women's doubles final at Wimbledon. Russia's Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova got Bronze.



Great Britain's Laura Robson (5-L) and Andy Murray (4-L) celebrate with their team and relatives after receiving their silver medals during a ceremony at the end of the London 2012 Olympic Games mixed doubles tennis tournament, at the All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on August 5, 2012.

Murray routs Federer to take gold



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Andy Murray demolished Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the Olympic men's final on Sunday to win his first gold medal and avenge his Wimbledon final defeat against the world number one.

Just four weeks after breaking down in tears when Federer shattered his hopes of a first Wimbledon title, Murray returned to Centre Court to rout the Swiss great in just one hour and 56 minutes.

The 25-year-old Scot, beaten in three Grand Slam finals by Federer, has been in superb form all week, but even he hadn't dreamed he would win gold in such emphatic style.

Not only did the world number four do it by beating the Swiss for the first time since 2010, Murray also handed the 17-time Grand Slam winner his heaviest defeat in a major final since Rafael Nadal thrashed him for the loss of just four games in the 2008 French Open final.

"This is one of the biggest wins of my life," Murray said. "I have had a lot of tough losses in my career and this is the best way to come back from the Wimbledon final."

"I didn't expect this at the start of the week. I thought I'd go deep into the tournament but I felt so fresh today. It's amazing."

For Federer, a doubles gold medallist with Stanislas Wawrinka in Beijing in 2008, this final was meant to be the crowning glory of his career. Instead, Federer, who will be 35 by the time the Rio Games are in full swing in 2016, may wonder if he will ever get a chance to win the Golden Slam of all four majors and singles gold.

Federer claimed tiredness had taken its toll after his four and a half hour semi-final win over Juan Martin del Potro and said: "It was a tough tournament and maybe I was a little emotionally drained and left a bit too much out there in the earlier rounds."

"But Andy did play very well, he was much better than I was. Still, I have a medal in the singles. That's what I wanted."

When Murray gave Federer two break points in the opening game, his response to the crisis, a series of perfectly-placed winners, was symbolic of his impressive form this week.

While on Saturday Serena

Williams clinched her first Olympic singles gold medal with a 6-0, 6-1 demolition of Maria Sharapova in the most one-sided women's final in the history of the Games.

Williams' victory, which surpassed Suzanne Lenglen's 6-3, 6-0 win over Dorothy Holman in the 1920 final in Antwerp, is the culmination of an incredible grass-court campaign that has brought the American her fifth Wimbledon crown and now the third gold medal of a remarkable career.

The 30-year-old, who has won two doubles gold medals with sister Venus, is just the second woman to win a Golden Slam of all four major titles and singles gold, emulating German legend Steffi



Graf, who achieved the feat in 1988 when she won the five titles in the same year.

Serena is also the first woman to complete a Golden Slam in both singles and doubles. And the 14-time Grand Slam champion isn't finished yet.